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For: NONLINEAR AND ADJUSTABLE BUSHINGS

Group Art Unit: 3683
Examiner: Douglas C. Butler

Clean Version of Added (Replacement) Claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Claim 10:

B | A bushing comprising a rigid inner sleeve and an outer sleeve coaxial with said inner sleeve, and rubber insert between said outer sleeve and said inner sleeve, with said sleeves attached, respectively, to the first and the second mechanical components connected by said bushing while allowing a limited mobility between said first and second mechanical components at least in one direction, this mobility determined by stiffness constants of said rubber insert along translational and angular directions of mobility, said rubber insert comprising at least one streamlined element whose stiffness constants can be changed by preloading by compression in its radial direction.

Claim 11:

The bushing of Claim 10 wherein said rubber insert comprises a plurality of streamlined rubber elements.

Claim 12:

The bushing of Claim 10 comprising means for applying variable compression preload forces to said streamlined rubber elements.

Claim 13:

The bushing of Claims 10 and 11 wherein at least one of said streamlined elements is preloaded by compression before insertion between said inner and outer sleeves.

Claim 14:

The bushing of Claim 12 wherein said means comprise preload-application shoes disposed between said outer sleeve and said streamlined rubber elements and contacting said streamlined rubber elements, and compression load actuators movably connected with said outer sleeve and contacting said preload application shoes.